UNITED NATIONS

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Secretariat

ST/IC/1997/16
25 February 1997

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: Assistant Secretary-General for Conference and Support Services

Subject: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE: 1997 ENDANGERED SPECIES SERIES AND STATIONERY

Stamps

1. On Thursday, 13 March 1997, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue the fifth set of stamps in its multi-year series on the theme "Endangered species". The issue will consist of 3 sheets of 16 stamps in denominations of US$ 0.32, SwF 0.80 and S 7. Each sheet will illustrate four different endangered species.

(United States equivalents - SwF 0.80: US$ 0.56 and S 7: US$ 0.65 - subject to exchange rate fluctuation)

Denomination: US$ 0.32

Endangered species:

African elephant
Major Mitchell's cockatoo
Black-footed ferret
Cougar

Designer: Lori Anzalone (United States of America)

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Denomination: SWF 0.80

Endangered species:

Polar bear
Blue-crowned pigeon
Marine iguana
Guanaco

Designer: Daniela Costa
(Italy)

Denomination: S 7

Endangered species:

Barbary macaque
Blue crane
Przewalski's Wild Horse
Giant anteater

Designer: Robert Goldstrom
(United States
of America)

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Maximum cards

2. The fourteenth set of maximum cards will also be issued on 13 March 1997. Three different cards will be produced to accommodate the three se-tenant blocks of four stamps being issued. The appropriate se-tenant blocks of stamps will be affixed and cancelled first day of issue relevant to the respective office. The maximum card cancelled United Nations New York will sell for US$ 1.58. The cancelled United Nations Geneva card is priced at US$ 2.54, and the cancelled United Nations Vienna card is priced at US$ 2.89, subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

1997 endangered species annual collection

Special note

3. The 1997 endangered species annual collection folder will be released on or about 30 May 1997.

Stationery

4. UNPA will issue a new 50-cent air letter on 13 March to replace the current surcharged 50-cent air letter. The air letter is based on two photographs taken by Unmesh, a staff member of the United Nations.

General information

5. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachet ONLY. Air letters cancelled first day of issue will also be available.

6. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain the new stamps and other philatelic items on Thursday, 13 March, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building: 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) Counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

(c) Counter outside the cafeteria in the DC-1 building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7. Staff members are encouraged to use United Nations stamps on their personal mail. By doing so, these miniature messengers of peace can educate thousands of people worldwide about the activities and goals of the United Nations.

8. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.

UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

ST/IC/1997/17
4 March 1997

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of the staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management

Subject: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

1. A series of events is planned to commemorate International Women's Day (8 March 1997). A Task Force has been established to coordinate activities for the week, with the participation of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department of Public Information, the Focal Point for Women in the Secretariat, the Group on Equal Rights for Women, the Staff Committee, Staff Development Services of the Office of Human Resources Management and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

2. The Secretary-General has been invited to address a panel organized by the Group on Equal Rights for Women, which will meet on Friday, 7 March 1997, to discuss affirmative action for women. Speakers include Mr. Hans Corell, Mr. Denis J. Halliday, Ms. Angela King, Ms. Linda Perkin, Ms. Loraine Rickard-Martin, Dr. Nafis Sadik and Ms. Rosemarie Waters.

3. Staff members wishing to participate in this event will be released from their duties subject to the exigencies of the service and should be in their seats by 9.45 a.m. in Conference Room 4. In addition, throughout the week, managers are requested to be flexible in allowing staff members to participate in the various events, a list of which is attached.

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ANNEX

Calendar of events in connection with International Women's Day 3-13 March 1997

A series of events is planned to commemorate International Women's Day (8 March) as a result of the work of the Task Force set up to coordinate activities for the week. The following departments and offices are participating: the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department of Public Information, the Focal Point for Women in the Secretariat, the Group on Equal Rights for Women, the Staff Committee, Staff Development Services of the Office of Human Resources Management and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

3-30 March	A display of information resources by or about women outside the Staff Cafeteria (Organized by the Department of Public Information)
Monday, 3 March	
1-3 p.m.	Festival of films by and about women: The Vienna Tribunal, Defying the Odds Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium
Tuesday, 4 March	
1.15-2.45 p.m.	"Mentoring: the myth and reality", presentation by Margo Murray (Sponsored by Staff Development Services/Office of Human Resources Management) Conference Room 1
Wednesday, 5 March	
12-1.15 p.m.	Festival of films by and about women: Paving the Way Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium
1.15-2.45 p.m.	Panel discussion: "Work/life/family issues" Conference Room 3
Thursday, 6 March	
10.30-1 p.m.	Panel discussion: "Women at the peace table" (Sponsored by the Department of Public Information and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) Conference Room 4
1-3 p.m.	Lunch with women ambassadors (Organized by the Group on Equal Rights for Women. For information call 963-5090) Delegates Dining Room
1-3 p.m.	Festival of films by and about women: Rights of Passage and Women's Story Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium

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Friday, 7 March
10 a.m.-12 p.m. — Panel discussion: "Affirmative action for women"
Address by the Secretary-General
(Sponsored by the Group on Equal Rights for Women)
Conference Room 4

12-2 p.m. — Book-signing: Orphan of the Cold War by
Dame Margaret Joan Anstee
(Organized by DPI)
United Nations Bookstore, 1B concourse

Monday, 10 March
1 p.m. — Exhibit opening: "50 years of the Commission on the Status of Women"
(Sponsored by the Department of Public Information and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development)
General Assembly Visitors Lobby

Exhibit: "WomenWatch" Internet site
(Sponsored by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNIFEM and INSTRAW)
1B Neck

Wednesday, 12 March
1.15-2.45 p.m. — Panel discussion: "Gender mainstreaming and organizational change"
(Sponsored by UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, InterAction and the International Women's Tribune Center)
Conference Room D

Thursday, 13 March
12.30-2.30 p.m. — United States Committee for UNIFEM International Women's Day annual luncheon
Speakers: Angela King and Noeleen Heyzer
Delegates Dining Room
(For tickets, call United States Committee for UNIFEM - 907-1354)

UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

ST/IC/1997/18
6 March 1997

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of the staff at Headquarters

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYEES OF UNITED NATIONS STAFF MEMBERS: PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMME*

1. The Organization has recently received from the United States Mission to the United Nations a note verbale clarifying United States Government policy with regard to the participation in the United States Social Security Programme of individuals present in the United States with G-5 status as household employees of United Nations staff members as set out below.

A. Household employees of senior United Nations officials

2. According to the note, participation in the United States Social Security Programme of individuals with G-5 status who are the household employees of senior United Nations officials at the Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General levels who are accorded diplomatic status by the host country pursuant to section 19 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations is required, depending on the individual circumstances as described below.

3. Diplomatic privileges and immunities are accorded to such senior United Nations officials in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The issue of social security is addressed in article 33 of the Convention, which provides that private servants who are in the sole employ of a diplomatic agent shall be exempt from social security provisions in force in the host State on two conditions: (a) that they are not nationals of or permanently resident in the host State and (b) that they are covered by the social security

* Personnel Manual index No. 13023.

provisions which may be in force in the home country or a third State. Article 33 further stipulates that a diplomatic agent who employs persons to whom the above exemption does not apply shall observe the obligations which the social security system of the host State imposes upon employers.

4. Furthermore, article 37 of the Vienna Convention exempts household employees with G-5 status of such senior United Nations officials from paying dues or taxes on the emoluments they receive by reason of their employment in the host State. The United States Mission, however, has advised that such senior United Nations officials should inform the United States Social Security Administration or the United States Internal Revenue Service of this exemption when making a contribution to the Social Security Programme in the name of the household employee.

5. Household employees of senior United Nations officials to whom the exemption from participation in the Social Security Programme does apply are ineligible to participate in the Programme on a voluntary basis.

B. Household employees of all other United Nations staff members

6. Non-United States citizens who are household employees of other United Nations staff members are subject to United States laws on social security.

7. In the absence of a totalization/social security agreement (an agreement which aims to preclude the requirement to pay into two national social security systems simultaneously) between the United States and the country from which the household employee comes, if the household employee has G-5 status, he or she must participate in the United States Social Security Programme because there is no applicable international law that would override the requirement to participate.

8. The United States Mission has informed the Organization that the following countries have concluded bilateral totalization/social security agreements with the United States: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. If the household employee comes from a country with which the United States has a totalization/social security agreement, whether or not the household employee must participate in the United States Social Security Programme depends on the provisions of the agreement. In general, a household employee from a country with which the United States has a totalization/social security agreement will be subject only to the laws of the home country and exempt from participation in the United States Social Security Programme if the household employee has been in the United States for a period of five years or less.

10. The household employees of United Nations staff members who do not enjoy diplomatic status are not exempt from dues or taxes imposed in the United States on the emoluments received by reason of their employment there.